28: Rao E-5 (1946-7) 1954 AWI India
Telugu AW17

Rajhas had donated maternity wards in the hospitals situated in the Panchayat areas. 743

Donations: Some Panchayats patronised education by contributing funds; for instance, Bhimavaram in West Godavari planned to give Rs. 5,000 annually to the local college. Salur Panchayat in Kurnool was giving Rs. 500 to a school for blind. 658

Sundry Expenses: Besides these, there were separate funds set apart in every Panchayat for public amenities, law-charges, election expenses, office contingencies, dearness allowance, travelling allowance and salaries of the establishment, etc. 652

Meetings of Panchayats: According to the Madras Local Boards Act, every Panchayat should meet at least once a month to transact business and if for three months no meeting was held, the Panchayat would cease to exist or if a member remained continuously absent for three months, he was to be invalidated, though he could seek re-election 623

Name of the Village	Total No. of Meetings	Ordinary	Extra-ordinary	Percentage of Attendance	Adjourned for want of quorm
Amalapuram	17	17	...	...	...
Tuni	18	13	5	...	...
Bhimavaram	25	12	13	...	6
Narsapur	19	19	...	42	5
Ramchandrapuram	24	24	...	50	...
Jaggayapeta	12	12	...	50	...
Kadiri	16	10	6	50	...
Dharmavaram	17	17	...	42	7
Nuzvid	12	12	...	50	...
Achanta	12	12	...	poor	...
Pedana	12	12	...	50	...
Parvatipuram	13	13	...	52	...
Pamaru	12	12	...	34	...
Nandikotkur	12	12	...	34	...
Pattikonda	12	12	...	50	...
Maddikera	12	12	...	20	6
Vuyyuru	12	12	...	80	...
Akividu	12	10	2	50	2
Bukkapatnam	15	15	...	50	...
Penu Konda	16	16	...	66	...

The meetings of the Panchayat are important from the view point of their deliberations, for these formulate the work of Panchayats.

In East Godavari the Panchayat school for instance at Avidi was started in 1930 by an order of the Registrar General of Panchayats at that time. It was providing instruction upto vernacular 5th standard. The Panchayat provided the school with an independent building of its own in 1934. The pay of the teacher was met with from the grant of the Inspector of Local Boards i. e. yearly Rs. 60 and the additional expenditure being met with from the funds of the Panchayat. Due to financial disability of the Panchayat, the running of the school was also very unsatisfactory. The teacher was getting Rs. 15/- p. m. His appointment, promotion, suspension or dismissal were all entirely at the mercy of Panchayat subject to the control of the District Educational Officer. The usual working of the school was from 7-30 to 10-30 a. m. and 2-0 to 5-0 p. m. Doddampeta Panchayat School in the same district was reported to be working very satisfactorily, but the lack of sufficient co-operation did not make it possible for conducting actual investigation into the working of this school. In West Godavari two Panchayat Schools were chosen for survey, one known for its efficiency and the other known for its unsatisfactory management i. e. Inaparru and Itempudi respectively. 871 876 [658]

In Inaparru, the Panchayat School was happy under the management of the Panchayat Board which looked to its efficient working. It had 3 teachers. The school was getting a grant of Rs. 826/- and the scales of pay of the teachers were for 2nd grade, basic Rs. 22/- plus Rs. 16/- D. A. and for higher grade, basic Rs. 17/- plus Rs. 8/- plus Rs. 16/- D. A. All the teachers were senior ones and were eager to serve the school without leaving it, in spite of the low remuneration compared with that given by the District Board Schools. This was because of the smooth relations existing between the Board and the School. There were about 88 boys and girls. The average attendance was about 60.

The grant of the teacher's pay from the Inspector of Local Boards was received only once in a year, but, the Panchayat Board paid its teachers regularly, granted them casual leaves of 15 days in a year and in addition to giving them whatever other meagre facilities it could give.

Here the teachers feel that if their scales of pay were revised and they were paid the same scales as those of the District Board they would have better incentive to work.

The working hours were from 7 to 10 a. m. and 2 to 5 p. m. The school was closed in agricultural season and worked in summer instead, to avoid greater absence of children of the cultivators. The

871 Panchayat Schools were never properly inspected either by the
875 District Board or by the Governments' Inspectors.

The school in Itempudi presented a wide contrast to that in Inaparru. Here the school was started about 15 years ago and 3 teachers were found to be working. A free site was given by the villagers to construct a building for the school, but, as the proposed building had not materialised so far, the school was situated in a rented building.

[658] The grant from the Inspector of Local Boards was Rs. 900 per annum for the running of the Panchayat School, and the pay scale of the teachers was Rs. 17 basic plus Rs. 16 D. A per month. The strength of the school, both boys and girls including, came to 90. The school worked from 7 to 10 a. m. and 2 to 5 p. m.

The Panchayat Board appointed the teachers, gave them furniture, buildings, contingencies towards stationery, supervised the school attendance and checked the school teachers' work.

But the school teachers were in general a most dissatisfied lot. For grant of leave, the permission of the Dy. Inspector, District Educational Officer and Inspector of Local Board was required, with the ultimate result of their not getting it, or getting it long after they required it. Hence the teachers demanded leave rules, provident fund facilities, annual or biennial increments, introduction of service registers, promotions, transfers, pension and provincialization of their services, instead of keeping them at the mercy of the Panchayat Boards, which were very often hot beds of party strife and corruption. Another difficulty was they did not get even that inadequate and miserable pay for five to six months. It was becoming very difficult for them to pull on for such long intervals without any aid from the Panchayat. The Panchayat was too poor to advance them with funds till they got the grant from the Inspector of Local Boards.

Itempudi Panchayat School was thus an example of the unsatisfactory type of Panchayat School management, which never thought of the prospects and happiness of the teachers who worked for the social well-being of the village community.

871 Similarly such good and bad examples of Panchayat Schools were to be found in every district. In Vizagapatam, Kothavalasa Panchayat was running an efficient Panchayat Board School. Govada which was having an elementary school was enthusiastic enough to start a high school.

In Kothavalasa the first Panchayat School was started in 1927, the second in 1928, the third and the fourth in 1930, and another